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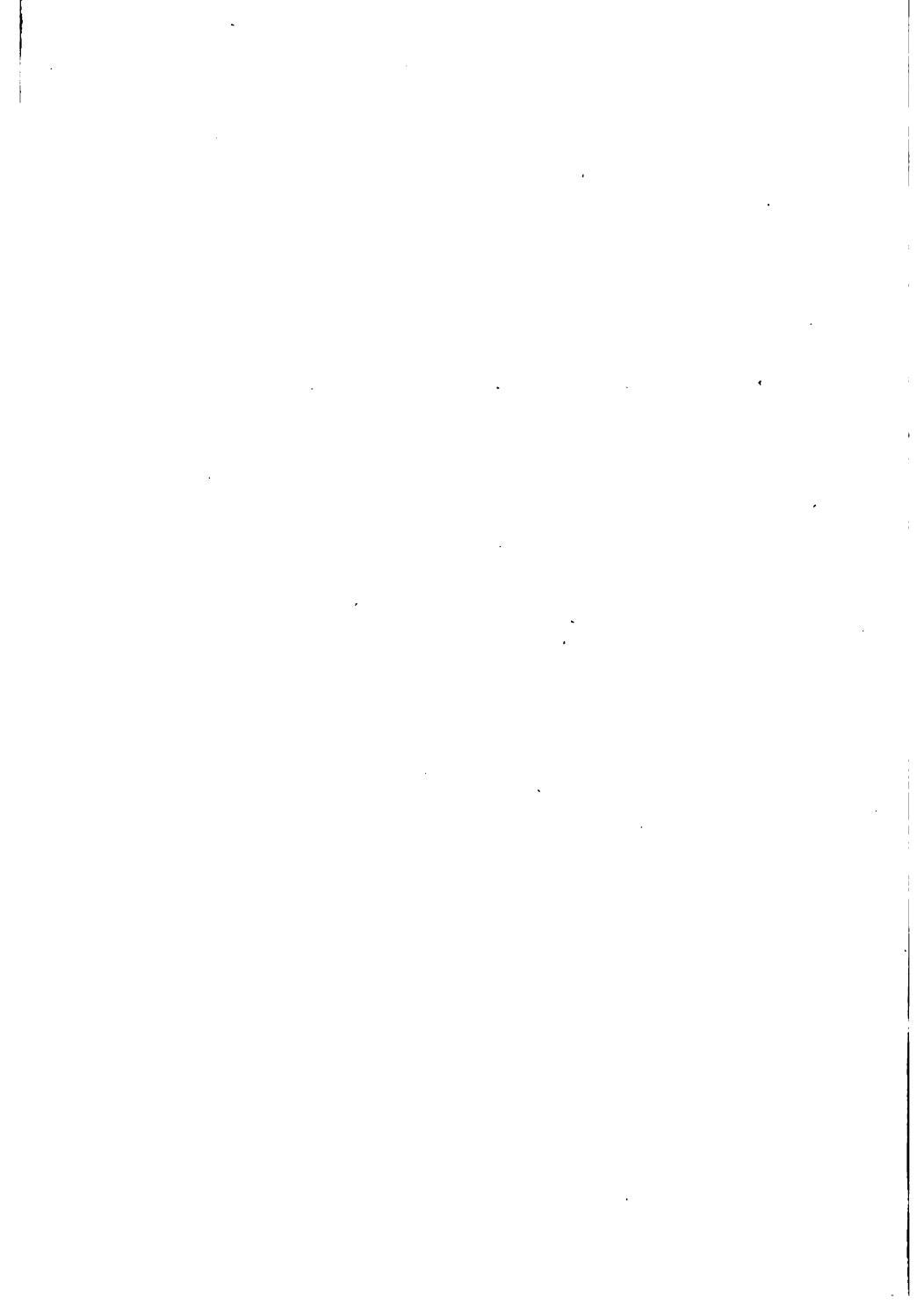
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69.

EPISTOLA GRATULATORIA

A D

PRÆNOBILEM ET AMPLISSIMUM VIRUM,

Comitem de NOTTINGHAM,

A B

Episcopo CICESTRENSI

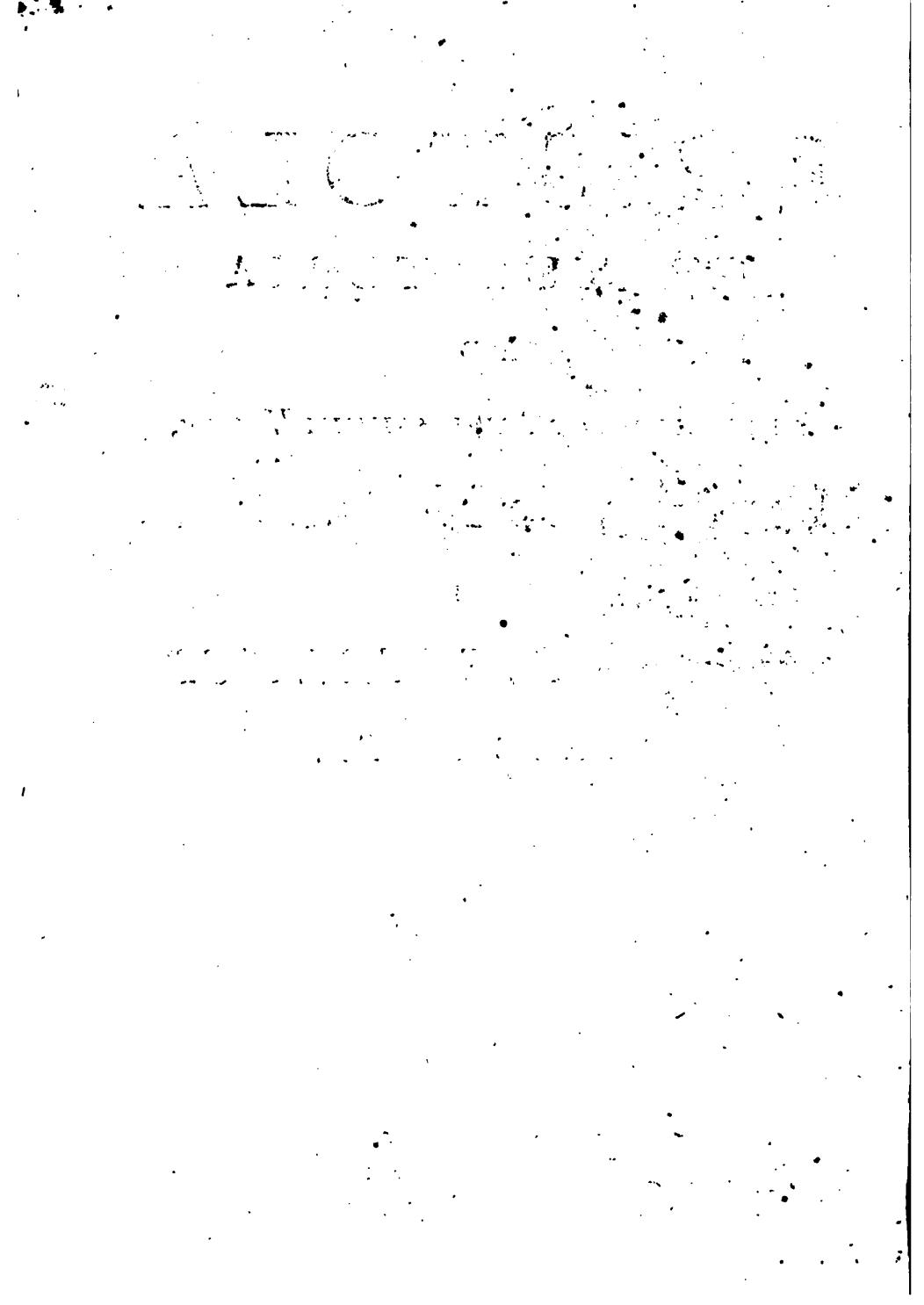
The manuscript is written in cursive script.

C O N S C R I P T A.



LONDINI:

Apud F. GYLES in Holborn. MDCCXXI.





EPISTOLA Gratulatoria, &c.

Prænobilis Comes NOTTINGHAMI,



IHI jam plusquam septuagenario,
aliquam Ingenii vim, sub Ci-
neribus diu sepultam exsuscitavit
Nominis Tui Celebritas; quæ
Te nuper inter Scriptores Erudi-
tos & Pios insignivit, Titulumque
Tibi dedit ultra omnes Civiliam Ordinum Titu-
los, Magnificum & Illustrem.

ACADEMIA solenni more se convocat in Laudes tuas, & unanimiter Tibi offert Encomia, non *pro Forma*; sed multis Meritis acquisita.

CLERUS Londinensis, optimorum Librorum aut Author aut Judex, gloriatur Te habere Studiorum fuorum symmystam, & pro Domino nostro CHRISTO, ejusque EVANGELIO, tam eruditè & nervosè contendentem.

HAC æmulatione & Ego senescens Gratulatioriam Epistolam attentare provocor, & me juvat cum tantis Viris concertare in Laudes tuas, licet ægris pedibus, & ex magno intervallo; nam Virtus Virtutem accedit, & Animus Tuus Divinâ Vi tactus, meum sècum trahit, cœlestibus rebus maximè cohærentem.

PROECTO Tu es SAL Nobilium, ut olim erat Græcia, Gentium: Tu es, sub optimo REGE Fidei Nostræ Defensore, summus Advocatus; in præcipuâ Religionis Controversiâ determinandâ, Ingenium, Prudentiam, & Pietatem cœmulatissimè ostendis; de tam altis rebus sanè cogitare, non eruditè scribere, diu contentus eras; sed acris.

acris Animi ardor honorandi CHRISTUM cum omnibus Facultatibus & Viribus Tuis, Te protulit in lucem, ut *Authorem*; & non sinebat Te Tuam intimam Fidem, Tuos optimos Mores, & Tuam divitem Venam in Theologicis Rebus, ulterius comprimere & celare.

ADVERSARIUM Tuum, non sublimi statione Tuâ, nec Titulorum fulgoribus unquam prægravas, sed solum Argumentorum pondere; atque impetum ejus multùm superat tua Sapientia.

IN Græco Idiomate Imperitiam ejus leviter tangis, falsas appellations ad Sanctorum Patrum sententias quasi digito indicas, mutilatas restituis; & in varias formas se convertentem tam dirum stropharum artificem, tandem constringis in Humanam.

MULTIFARIA ejus Sophismata mire diluis, sc. Veritatem ipsam in folio suo collocando: ita Falsitas citò avolat a tanto Lumine, ut Umbræ pereunt in ipsâ Meridie.

SUNT quidam in nostrâ ætate, qui Mathematicis & Astronomicis Studiis nimium dediti,

istis Machinis grassantur in ipsam Religionem; qui simplicem Fidem minutis Ratiunculis dissecant, & per plectiles Syllogismos gignunt nutriuntque Heterodoxa Dogmata; & criticè defendere conantur, quæcunque ineptiunt; quæ omnia Tu perspicis & contemnis: Nam Artem verè Criticam Tu probè calles; non illam petulantem & profanam, quâ utuntur Impii ad scepticam Insaniam propagandam; sed quæ gravem & politicum Virum decet, quæque longo Habitu benè judicandi ex honesto pectore paullatim ereditur, & est *Maturi ingenii fœlicissimus Fru-*
etus.

INNATA Sagacitate, acquisitis artibus, & multâ experientiâ, nomen Eruditî ritè mereris; quippe Rei rationem, Argumentationis legitimam Formam, Propositionis certam Consequentiam, & omnem veram Evidentiam, dubitantis Animi Quietem, subtili Mentis acie acutè cernis: Hæ sunt Intellectus Tui Vires, quæ Te ad distinguenda *sæcularia negotia*, & ad determinandum *Religionis summam Controversiam*, Habilem & Idoneum fecerunt.

HINC *scriptum* Tuum nuper editum, omnes qui intelligunt, admirantur; & qui non intelligunt, laudant, propter Operis *Pietatem*.

SED nullo Patrocinio, nullo Laudatore opus habes, post Gratias ab *Oxonio* datas; est enim illa Academia *Oculus Dexter Gentis Britannicæ*, in meritis hominum distinguendis summè perspicax; vigilans & erecta dignos attollere veris Laudibus; semper fida Monarchiæ, fida Ecclesiæ, ideoque in conferendis suis Honoribus raro errans; est Antiquissimum Domicilium Musarum & Gratiarum; Phosphorus & Hesperus Universalium Artium & Scientiarum, & dulce *Sidus meum*.

Te prænobilem & eruditum, & in Civilibus Causis dominantem Oratorem, omnes confitentur; sed ego Te *Religiosum Nobilem, Religiosum Eruditum*, & cum tantâ facundiâ *Bonum esse Virum maximè glorior.*

Tu rectâ natus eras indole, quam prima Institutio fovebat, Academia latius auxit, & piæ Vitæ Tenor confirmavit: sed diu cessavit (præcipue:

cipue apud Nobiles) cura & diligentia *Educatoris*, quæ est τὸ πᾶν Virtutis Moralis, & certissima Custodia Divinæ: In Baptismo Infantium est stricta semper Obligatio compatribus, & ad perfectionem tutissimum iter; sine quâ, insignis quædam stultitia perpetuò regnat, aut in omnem Culpam ruit Juventus Generosorum, & omnes extinguntur Melioris mentis igniculi; Hinc tandem in publicis *Civium* Negotiis omnia fuent *Putrida*, & Emendationis vix capacia, nisi totius Gentis citò accesserit Universus Conatus.

CREDITE mihi, O Divites, quod magnâ opus est Sapientiâ, magnam Fortunam concordare; & qui multa Prædia possidet, multas Prudentiæ dotes possideat, oportet: sed eheu! nostri mores in disponendis *Testamentis*, alio labuntur Cursu, non Ratione suffulto, sed Gentis Consuetudine, ineptarum rerum communi Patrocinio: nam plerumque apud nos imbecillis humeris imponitur Divitiatum regendarum difficultatum onus, & malis efferisque affectionibus assignatur infinitum pabulum; unde Nobilium Divitiumque Adolescentes uno sæpè impetu gregatim feruntur in damna patrimonii, Corporis & Animæ; & hoc, ex merâ Patrum Indulgentiâ, quippe

quippe certo Temporis momento in Magnum Mundum Scelerosorum mittuntur, Stulti Opulentia, deploratissimi mortalium; qui Præceptoribus & Curatoribus egent per triginta annos & ultra: hinc exoriuntur in sæculo nostro, Hominum tot monstra, qui sese separant in Diaboli Honorem, prodigiosâ Libidine & Ebrietate Ritus ejus impiè & impure celebrantes; Blasphemantium Conventicula, & Osores omnis Disciplinæ, omniumque Legum; Qui Calamitates & Incendia inconcives, Criminibus suis cogunt descendere, publicas fraudes in perniciem totius Regni agunt; & ipsam Pestem nostris Regionibus minitantem, corruptissimis suis Moribus, invocant, accelerantque.

SED represso me, Panegyrim non Satyram meditantem; & veniam precor, quod tam *Dira* attigi, ut solummodo aliorum Erroribus Tuam Prudentiam magis elucidere facerem: Cujus inclita Familia, rectis Moribus, bonis Litteris, & in Religionem *Hæreditaria* Veneratione insignis, Tuorum Honorum Decus tuetur; & Domesticis Virtutibus Te circumstipat saceruli nostri verè *Christianum Heroam* qui in hac Dissertatione piâ & accuratâ, omnium prudentium suffragiis & accla-

acclamationibus, super *Infidelium & Infimos & Summos*, leniter & fortiter triumphas: Principem, Patriam, optimos Cives, Academias, Synodus, Ecclesiam protegere, labor est, & Honos, & Voluptas Vitæ Tuæ: Hoc sit Epitaphium Tuum, cùm ad Regnum illud Christi, quod tam piè & strenue vindicasti, serò tandem migraveris.

Domine Prænobilis,

Tui Cultor Hamillimus sum,

Thomas Cicestrensis Episcopus.

CUM hæc scriberem, nihil audivi de publicâ Gratulatione à CANTABRIGIA, secundis Honoribus dignissimâ, & post *Almam Matrem meam*, plurimum venerabilis.

